



Litter Picks

Electronic Newsletter

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Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Environmental Enhancement

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DEQ's Community Involvement Initiative: The Department of Environmental Quality is dedicated to helping the public better understand DEQ's role in protecting the environment, and to involving the public more effectively in environmental decision making.

Welcome to Litter Picks, a look at litter prevention news in the Commonwealth and across the nation. We hope that some of this information is helpful to you in your programs, and hope you'll help us with news from your area related to litter prevention and awareness. Had a successful clean up event? Recognized companies or citizens for their clean up efforts? Let us know by sending this information to Sheila Barnett at

smbarnett@deq.virginia.gov.

Results from the Graffiti Prevention Competition

Keep America Beautiful has announced the winners of their second annual Graffiti Prevention Competition. They are:

- ✓ Gwinnett Clean & Beautiful, Lawrenceville, GA
- ✓ City of Riverbank, Riverbank, CA
- ✓ Just 4 Kids, Key West, FL

Gwinnett Clean & Beautiful created a graffiti tracking and mapping program to identify where graffiti is occurring and how frequently. They also mailed public service announcements to residents with their water bills to educate them about the problems with graffiti.

The City of Riverbank hired an enforcement officer through their Victory over Vandalism program. Citizens adopted walls and a call line and a reward program were established. School children participated in an anti-graffiti poster contest and the winning poster was printed on a community awareness t-shirt. Youth completed a mural on a water tank and citizens participated in a paint-by-number mural that was painted on a chronically tagged wall.

Just 4 Kids "Art Against Graffiti" has been a very popular program in Key West. Children learn about graffiti and its effect on the community. They then work on sketches and groups paint their designs on utility boxes that have been ravaged with graffiti.

Where there is graffiti, there is often more litter. By removing graffiti and applying beautification efforts, the amount of trash found in an area is often reduced. For more information about this program go to: www.graffitihurts.org

Picking up trash to help Fight Crime

The first step in the battle against crime in a neighborhood is to clean up the trash along the ground. That is what residents of Virginia Beach are doing and they are pleased with the results. "It's nice to have a clean neighborhood, and not so messy," said 9-year-old Hunter Mead. The police are helping the city to determine which neighborhoods need the most assistance based upon the crime rate. Police are patrolling the cleaned up neighborhoods more often. The residents are enthusiastic and hope that they will continue to have good turn outs for clean ups at least once a month.

For more information contact Ms. Ruby Arrendono, the Clean Community Program Manager for the City of Virginia Beach at 757-427-4104 or rarredon@vbgov.com

Did You Know?

- ✓ David Paylor was appointed as the Director of the Department of Environmental Quality on January 16 with the retirement of Bob Burnley.
- ✓ Wise County has strengthened its litter ordinance. Both the Litter Warden Greg Cross and the Recycling Coordinator for Wise County, Ray Couch have requested that county attorney Karen Mullins to pursue civil actions in court against litterbugs. The judge can now invoke fines up to \$5,000, and require people convicted of littering to do roadside pickups under the Assign-a-Highway program. For more information call Ray Couch at 276-328-1000.
- ✓ The Boy Scouts of America's slogan is to "do a good turn daily." A good turn can be as simple as showing a small act of kindness or it can include taking on civil projects to help the world around us. Under Conduct Service Projects to Build Healthier Environments on the goodturnforamerica.com web site, boy scouts are encouraged to take on conservation and recycling projects or to consider beautification and litter cleanup projects.
- ✓ The Gateway Streetscape Foundation will sponsor the first Winter Smith River Cleanup on February 18. Volunteers will gather at Fieldale Ball Park in Fieldale to clean up the Smith River and the feeder streams. For more information call Lois Christiansen at 276-634-4674.

Potomac Watershed Trash Summit Scheduled for March 16

The World Bank will host the Potomac Watershed Trash Summit in Washington, D.C. on March 16 from 9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. at the Preston Bank World Auditorium. Representatives from government agencies, non-profit organizations, and educational institutions will be requested to provide personal commitment and resources needed to develop an action plan by 2008 to plan a clean up of the trash in the Potomac and Anacostia Rivers.

Six counties in Maryland and Virginia along with the City of Alexandria and the District of Columbia have signed the Potomac River Watershed Trash Treaty.

The registration deadline is March 6 and the fee to attend is \$40 per person. For more information and registration for the Potomac River Watershed Trash Treaty and the Potomac Watershed Trash Summit, visit:

http://www.hardbargainfarm.org/trash_initiative/trash_index.html

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